

In the present Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the claims of the present application are directed to a plurality of patentably distinct species comprising precursor compounds of the formula  $MR^1_xR^2_yA_z$  where  $R^1$  is one of the following:

- I. A hydride group;
- II. An alkyl or cycloalky group;
- III. An alkenyl or cycloalkenyl group;
- IV. A carbonyl group;
- V. An alkoxy or siloxy group;
- VI. An amido group;
- VII. A nitrate group;
- VIII. A halide group; and
- IX. A silyl group.

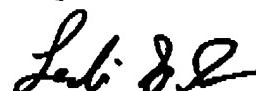
Accordingly, an election of one of the above disclosed species, under 35 U.S.C. §121, is required for continued prosecution of the present application.

In response thereto, applicants provisionally elect precursor compounds wherein  $R^1$  is a hydride group, as the single disclosed species for continued prosecution herein. Applicants submit that Claims 1, 2, 3, 13-56 all read upon the elected species.

Applicants hereby reserve their right, under 37 C.F.R. §14.14, to have other non-elected species considered in this application upon allowance of the above-elected species. Moreover, upon allowance of the elected species, the generic claims must be allowed in the absence of art cited by the Examiner.

Hence, it is respectfully urged that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction and provide an action on the merits with respect to all the species present in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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